



# House Select Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

**JIM TURNER, Ranking Member**

*www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 30, 2004**

**Contact: Moira Whelan**

**(202) 226-8827**

## **TURNER: We Should Be Fighting to Win**

*In response to President Bush's statement today that he did not believe the war on terrorism could be won, Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee made the following statement:*

**"It is a shocking reversal of the President's prior declarations to say that he doesn't believe we can win the war on terror. We can and must defeat the brand of radical Islamic extremism that is threatening our nation and the free world.**

**"The President's statement today is a reflection that his Administration does not have a global strategy to win this war by attacking the terrorists; protecting the homeland; and preventing the rise of future terrorists.**

**"A comprehensive strategy should include, at a minimum, the following policies, which currently are not being aggressively pursued by the Administration":**

### Attacking the Terrorists

- \*\* Doubling the United States Special Forces capabilities (to 100,000);
- \*\* Increasing Army end strength by 60,000;
- \*\* Creating a strategy to eliminate known terrorist sanctuaries;
- \*\* Reforming intelligence agencies to recruit better sources, improve collection activities and promote information sharing.

### Protecting the Homeland

- \*\* Strengthening counterproliferation efforts around the globe to secure nuclear and radiological materials around the globe;
- \*\* Developing the full range of needed medicines to counter bioterrorism;
- \*\* Deploying a border screening system for foreign visitors that connects all U.S. terrorism databases;
- \*\* Investing in personnel, infrastructure, and technology to secure our porous borders;
- \*\* Securing vulnerable chemical plants
- \*\* Requiring screening of all cargo placed on passenger aircraft and cargo containers that enter U.S. ports

### Preventing the Rise of Future Terrorists

- \*\* Creating partnership to provide secular educational opportunities for youth in Muslim countries;
- \*\* Developing partnerships between the U.S. and Middle East nations to stimulate economic growth and transition to free market economies;
- \*\* Building joint academic centers between U.S. and Middle East universities to promote scholarly and cultural exchanges;
- \*\* Improving communication of United States policies and values in the Arab/Muslim world.

These policies and others are recommended in the *9/11 Commission Report* and *Winning the War on Terror*

(available at [http://www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/issues\\_winning\\_war\\_terror.shtml](http://www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/issues_winning_war_terror.shtml))